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Message Text

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51
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

IO-14 DRC-01 /217 W
---------- 003744
P 151520Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5594
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 13383

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, PFOR, IBRD, GH
SUBJECT: GHANA DEBT MEETING

REF: STATE 223407 AND 225422

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFTELS, WE DISCUSSED GHANA DEBT QUESTION WITH GORDON BAKER, GHANA DESK OFFICER IN FCO. BAKER WAS VERY DUBIOUS ABOUT PROSPECTS OF HAVING CREDITORS MEETING BEFORE JANUARY 14. HE POINTED OUT THAT HMG HAD MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT, IF PREPARATIONS WERE TO BE MADE FOR NOVEMBER 26 MEETING, GHANAIAN AGREEMENT TO HOLD MEETING THAT DATE WOULD HAVE TO BE CONFIRMED TO FCO NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 16. HE STATED THAT NRC WAS TO HAVE HELD MEETING NOVEMBER 14 AT WHICH TIME IT WAS TO HAVE TAKEN DECISION ON TIME AND PLACE OF CREDITORS MEETING. HOWEVER, BAKER UNDERSTANDS THAT NRC DID NOT IN FACT MEET AND THAT LIKELIHOOD POSITIVE RESPONSE BY NOVEMBER 16 THEREFORE ALMOST NIL.

2. BAKER CONFIRMED THAT DECEMBER 3 MEETING DATE IS OUT
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OF THE QUESTION FOR GERMANS AS WELL AS BRITISH. HE ALSO

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CONFIRMED THAT HM TREASURY MINISTERS, FOLLOWING CHAUFOURNIER'S NOVEMBER 9 MEETINGS IN LONDON, HAD RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO MEET WITH GHANAIANS IN ACCRA. BAKER UNDERSTANDS THAT FRENCH POSITION IS UNCHANGED. THAT IS, THEY OPPOSED TO ACCRA VENUE, BUT WILL GO IF NECESSARY TO PRESERVE CREDITOR SOLIDARITY.

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH SIMON DAWBARN, HEAD OF WEST AFRICA DEPARTMENT, WE WERE ABLE, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO CHAUFOURNIER, TO CORRECT MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT SMITH PLANNING ATTEND KENYAN CELEBRATION. WORD WAS PASSED TO LEQUESNE.

ANNENBERG

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